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TAGS: OTRA EFIN FI

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE DEE O'HAIR

REF: STATE 05032

¶1. Post welcomes and grants country clearance to U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) officer, Dee O' Hair, Senior Attorney, to travel to Dublin, Ireland, from January 16 to 20, 2006. Purpose of visit is to conduct voluntary testimonies related to SEC investigation.

¶2. Embassy control officer for this visit is CONS Officer Alan Elrod, office telephone 353-1-668-8777 ext. 2410, home telephone 353-1-668-1178, cell phone 353-87-415-8776, email: ElrodTA@state.gov. Embassy telephone number while in country is (01) 668-8777 during business hours; (01) 668-9612 after hours.

¶3. Per reftel Post understands that hotel reservations have been made at Jurys Hotel and that no assistance is needed with accommodations.

¶4. Please send a cable to post with traveler's security clearance information, if not already done, to facilitate unescorted access within the Embassy, as required by 12 FAM ¶443.

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

¶5. There are no visa requirements for visitors traveling to Ireland on diplomatic or official passports.

¶6. Please note that as of March 29, 2004, Ireland has instituted a smoking ban in the work place, including all pubs, restaurants, and hotel common areas. Violation of this law may result in a fine of up to Euro 3,000. Check with hotel staff upon arrival to determine if smoking is permitted in hotel room.

¶7. Post policy is to provide airport pickup for employees at the rank of Deputy Assistant Secretary or above. Other travelers should take the Dublin Aircoach (7 Euro one way, departure every 15 minutes) or a taxi (approximately 25 Euro one way). Travelers arriving with excess equipment or having special transportation needs should communicate those requirements to their Embassy control officer prior to arrival.

¶8. Accommodation Exchange: Post does not have check cashing or money changing facilities. Major credit cards are widely accepted; ATM machines accept most major U.S. bankcards, and offer the best exchange rates.

SECURITY INFORMATION FOR IRELAND

¶9. Post is unaware of direct threats against Americans or U.S. interests in Ireland, and Ireland remains a relatively safe country where anti-American sentiment is rare. For additional threat assessment information regarding Ireland, you may contact DS/DSS/ITA (Diplomatic Security's Office of Intelligence and Threat Assessment) in the State Department at 202-663-0787. TDY visitors staying longer than 30 days

should schedule a briefing with the Regional Security Officer.

¶10. Street Crime: Like any large urban center, Dublin has its share of street crime, especially pick-pocketing and purse-snatching. Valuables should not be left unattended in cars and should be kept in hotel safe deposit boxes. Do not carry large amounts of cash. Violent confrontations and use of firearms are rare, however, and with reasonable precautions and common sense visitors should be able to enjoy a safe visit. Police services are excellent; the number for emergency services in Ireland is 999 or 112.

¶11. Terrorism: Ireland, like the rest of the world, shares an increased threat of terrorist incidents of international origin. Travelers should remain aware of their surroundings and report suspicious people or activities to the police or RSO.

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Visit Dublin's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/dublin/index.cfm>
KENNY